

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 198

(Senator Nathan-Pulliam, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

**Health Care Disparities, Cultural and Linguistic Competency, and Health
Literacy - Recommended Courses**

This bill requires the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (MHHD) in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to provide specified health occupations boards with a list of recommended courses in cultural and linguistic competency, health disparities, and health literacy. Each board must (1) post the recommended courses on the board's website; (2) encourage all applicants and health care professionals to take one or more of the recommended courses; (3) provide information about the courses to licensees at the time of licensure renewal; and (4) advertise the availability of the recommended courses in specified board publications.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MHHD can develop a list of recommended courses, and the affected boards can post the courses on their websites, provide information, and publish the required advertising within existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal for small businesses that offer such courses.

Analysis

Bill Summary:

Exhibit 1 lists the specified boards and licensed health care professionals impacted by the bill.

Exhibit 1 **Health Occupations Boards and Licensed Health Care Professionals** **Subject to the Bill**

<u>Board</u>	<u>Licensed Health Care Professionals</u>
Dental Examiners	Dentists
Nursing	Registered nurses and licensed practical nurses
Optometry	Optometrists
Pharmacy	Pharmacists
Physicians	Physicians
Podiatric Medical Examiners	Podiatrists
Professional Counselors and Therapists	All licensees
Psychologists	Psychologists
Social Work Examiners	Associate social workers
	Graduate social workers
	Certified social workers
	Certified social workers-clinical

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Current Law: In general, health occupations boards have continuing education requirements specific to their various disciplines. The health occupations boards require licensees to complete continuing education during the period preceding the expiration of the license. Health care professionals submit evidence of completion of required continuing education to the appropriate health occupations board according to regulations adopted by respective health occupations boards.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1404 of 2014, a similar bill which would have required courses to be taken, was assigned to the House Rules Committee. No further action was taken on the bill.

Cross File: HB 580 (Delegate Pena-Melnyk, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 23, 2015
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